CONFIDENTIAL.) [No. 40 of 1895.

REPORT

on

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 5th October 1895.

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Nil.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	Remarks.
	Bengali.	**Calcutta.**			
	Tri-monthly.				
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta ...	About 677		
	Weekly.				
1	"Banganivasi"	Ditto ...	„ 5,000		
2	"Bangavasi"	Ditto ...	„ 20,000		
3	"Hitaishi"	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Hitavadi"	Ditto ...	„ 4,000	27th September 1895.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
6	"Sahachar"	Ditto ...	About 500	25th ditto.	
7	"Samay"	Ditto ...	„ 4,000	25th ditto.	
8	"Sanjivani"	Ditto ...	„ 3,000	28th ditto.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	„ 800		
	Daily				
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto ...	„ 200		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto ...	„ 200		
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	„ 500		
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	„ 200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto ...	„ 1,000		
	Hindi.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	„ 800		
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	„ 9,000		
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
	Daily.				
1	"Dainik Bhárat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
	Persian.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
	Urdu.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto ...	About 400		
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto ...	„ 300		
	Bengali.	**Burdwan Division.**			
	Fortnightly.				
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	„ 500		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	„ 298		
	Weekly.				
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	350 to 400	24th September 1895.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha' ...	Chinsura ...	500		
3	"Darsak"	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	754		
	Bengali.	**Presidency Division.**			
	Monthly.				
1	"Ghosak"	Khulna ...	350		
	Weekly.				
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	280		
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	200		
3	"Pratikár"	Ditto ...	603		

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	Remarks.
	Uriya.	**Orissa Division.**			
	Monthly.				
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	.....		
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	3		Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered.
	Weekly.				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412		
	Hindi.	**Patna Division.**			
	Monthly.				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
	Weekly.				
1	"Aryavarta"	Dinapur ...	1,000		
	Urdu.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
2	"Gaya Punch"	Gaya ...	400		
3	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	150		
	Bengali.	**Rajshahi Division.**			
	Weekly.				
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....		
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283	25th September 1895.	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300		
	Hindi.				
	Monthly.				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150		It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
	Bengali.	**Dacca Division.**			
	Fortnightly.				
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280		
	Weekly.				
1	"Charu Mihir"... ...	Mymensingh ...	900	24th September 1895.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	450		
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Ditto ...	250		
4	"Vikrampur"	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	500		
	English and Bengali.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500		
	Bengali.	**Chittagong Division.**			
	Fortnightly.				
1	"Tripura Prakash ...	Comilla ...	.....		
	Weekly.				
1	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong ...	120		
	Bengali.				
	Fortnightly.	**Assam.**			
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....		

No.	Name of Steamer.	Port of Registry.	Official Number.	Tonnage of Steamer registered at the Port.	Remarks.
1	"Delhi"	...			
2	"Indraghan"	...			
3	"Shahbandar"	...			
4	"Vishalgarh"	...			

II.—Home Administration.

(a)—*Police.*

Lottery shops in Calcutta.

The *Hitavadi* of the 27th September draws the attention of the Calcutta police to the countless glittering shops which are started in Calcutta during the Puja season with the object of cheating the many ignorant villagers who come to the metropolis at this time. In many cases the shop-owners act in collusion with police constables, and cannot therefore be easily brought to justice. A correspondent writes of such a shop at 68, Chitpore Road, near the Jorasanko thana, where customers are cheated by means of lotteries. The owner of the shop has some *gundas* and Babus in his employ, who decoy people into the shop, where they are cheated and not unoften have their pockets picked. In many cases the customers are also beaten, and otherwise ill-treated there. It is a wonder that this den of swindlers has not been yet suppressed. Hitavadi, Sept. 27th, 1895.

Thefts in the Nadia district.

2. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of theft in Mahajanpur, within the jurisdiction of the Natudaha thana, in the Nadia district, and the inability of the police to trace the thieves. In most cases the inhabitants do not care to inform the police, because police investigation subjects them to pecuniary loss. Hitavadi.

The police.

3. The same paper says that there are certain occasions on which oppression by the police is almost indispensable. A thief cannot be expected to admit theft or to deliver the stolen goods if he is gently treated. The authorities know this, and yet are hypocritical enough to deny the existence of such oppression when lower police officers are accused of it. This hypocrisy teaches lower police officers their first lesson in deceit and oppression, and with years they develop into so many Shiraj-ud-daulahs, and care for nobody on earth. These men therefore extort and oppress at their pleasure, and Government's undue indulgence towards them encourages them the more. Government reproves Deputy Magistrates if they acquit persons sent up for trial by the police, and prosecutes those who complain against the police for having instituted false suits. The result is that few dare to complain against the police. This will appear from paragraph 14 of the Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution on the Police Administration. His Honour says that the number of complaints against the police would not have decreased if the false complainants had not been punished, and if such cases had not been tried by Joint-Magistrates instead of Deputy Magistrates. Hitavadi.

The writer then quotes the decision of Mr. Abdul Kader in the case of Babu Kedarnath Banerji against three officers of the Bhowanipore police, to show how anxious that Deputy Magistrate was to save the police. The Deputy Magistrate says:—

"In the first place, the position of the complainant was not known to the constables, and seeing him interfere with the arrest of a drunken man, they or rather one of them, Batook Doyal, who had arrested, naturally enough took him to be a friend of the man, and jumped to the foolish conclusion that he must have been drunk also. Having taken him also in custody, they were in a fix what to do, and they now wish it to be believed that the complainant was bent upon releasing the man by force. As regards the corporal, he cannot quite exculpate himself by saying he could not accept bail when the Inspector was in the thana, and so he had to detain the complainant, whom he did not then know to be a pleader. He was a responsible officer, and he should have certainly sent for the Inspector and taken prompt steps in the matter, if under the rules he was not authorised to accept bail."

The writer is surprised at these remarks, and cannot praise the Deputy Magistrate's judgment. He cannot also say whether there is any mystery in the matter. It is, however, evident from the decision that *paharawallas* have an impression that they have the right to beat offenders, and that they are not afraid to arrest and harass anybody who interferes with their exercise of that right. The accused policemen repeatedly pleaded that they were not aware of Kedar Babu's high social position, as if they had the right to oppress and maltreat men of humbler position in society.

The Deputy Magistrate has recommended that the offending police officers in this case may not be punished departmentally. It is, however, to be hoped

that the authorities will not accept this recommendation. If these guilty police officers escape so easily, they and their brother officers will receive undue encouragement.

SANJIVANI, Sept. 28th, 1895.

The Police Sub-Inspector of Bagnan in the Howrah district.

4. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 28th September says that the Police Inspector of Ulubaria lately instituted a private inquiry into the charges preferred against the Police Sub-Inspector of Bagnan in the Howrah district. This will not, however, serve the ends of justice. If the Inspector-General is really willing to do the Bagnan people justice, he should order a public inquiry, and entrust an officer of unflinching integrity and independence with the task of investigation. The Police Sub-Inspector should also be transferred, so that he may not influence the witnesses, who are all likely to be inhabitants of the locality, and are consequently in mortal dread of the Police Sub-Inspector. The correspondents of newspapers who complained against this police officer should be called upon to give evidence; and if they are given sufficient protection against his wrath, they will no doubt speak the truth. The district police should not be entrusted with the task of investigation, and the Inspector-General should tell off one of his establishment to make the enquiry.

The writer, in conclusion, makes an appeal to the Lieutenant-Governor and also to the Deputy Magistrate of Ulubaria to protect the helpless people of Bagnan.

SANJIVANI.

The Police Sub-Inspector of Bagnan.

5. Another correspondent of the same paper says that one Akshaya Kumar Pal of Kaji Bhuera, a village in Bagnan, in the Ulubaria subdivision of the Howrah district, got implicated in a crime. The Police Sub-Inspector of Bagnan had to make a police inquiry into the case. He went to the village in a *palki*, although it is only half-a-mile distant from the Bagnan police-station. Akshaya Kumar was made to pay the *palki* hire, and also to make a present of a few dozens of cocoanuts into the bargain to the Police Sub-Inspector. Every year the Police Sub-Inspector makes the chaukidars supply a fowl and two cocoanuts each, ostensibly for the District Police Superintendent, who pays a visit to the place at the end of every year. It is not known whether the Police Superintendent pays for these articles, but there is no doubt about it that the chaukidars do not get a single pice. The same Sub-Inspector of Police is also in the habit of making chaukidars report false cases of death in order to swell the statistics of mortality. He has resorted to this practice since the District Magistrate expressed his dissatisfaction with the statistics of mortality supplied by him on the ground that the number of deaths shown in his returns could not possibly have been so small.

(*b*)—*Working of the Courts.*

CHARU MIHIR, Sept. 24th, 1895.

Disposal of suits under the Land Registration Act in the Mymensingh district.

6. The *Charu Mihir* of the 24th September complains of the delay which takes place in the disposal of suits under the Land Registration Act in the Mymensingh district. One Sheik Jan Muhammad prayed for registration of his name. On the 20th April last, one witness in the suit was examined. After five months, at the request of both the parties, the Deputy Collector in charge of the work examined them on the 10th September. Even when such a suit has been disposed of, the fact is not made known to the parties so long as it does not please the amla to do so.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI, Sept. 24th, 1895.

Late hours kept by the criminal and civil courts in Bengal.

7. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 24th September complains that both civil and criminal courts in this country are in the habit of keeping late hours to the great inconvenience of all parties concerned. They are generally found to sit from 11 A M. up to 8 or 9 P.M. This practice is not only injurious to the health of the Judges and Magistrates, but is also prejudicial to the cause of justice. Overwork is sure to unhinge the mind of the Judge, and he cannot bring a whole heart and a vigorous mind to bear upon the trial of cases. It also happens that late in the evening, when the pleaders and mukhtars have left the court, the presiding officer entertains or rejects a plaint to the great loss and inconvenience of the suitors. This practice should, therefore, be put a stop to.

8. The same paper observes that the munsifi chauki of Budbud has been transferred to Burdwan to the great inconvenience of the public. They made a representation to the Government as well as the High Court, pointing out the inconvenience that would be caused by the transfer but in vain. The Government officials have no sympathy for the people. This is an unpleasant fact, but it is nevertheless true.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI, Sept. 24th, 1895.

The transfer of the munsifi chauki from Budbud to Burdwan.

9. The *Hitavadi* of the 27th September writes as follows:—

HITAVADI, Sept. 27th, 1895.

The Calcutta Small Cause Court.

The Calcutta Small Cause Court has not certainly been created to enable the Lieutenant-Governor to find places for his *protégés*. The Small Cause Courts too are seats of justice, and considering the summary method of trial in vogue therein, none but able and experienced Judges can be expected to dispense justice in those courts in a satisfactory manner. This is why up to this time only elderly and renowned officers have been appointed Small Cause Court Judges both in Calcutta and the mufassal. We might mention here, as examples, Babus Panchanan Banerjee, Durgaprasad Ghosh, and Mahendranath Basu in the mufassal, and Rasamay Babu, Hara Chandra Babu, Kunjalal Babu, and Girish Babu in Calcutta. The memory of these men is still cherished by the public as no English Judge's memory is cherished. Did the Lieutenant-Governor ever ask himself whence this difference between English and Native Judges? The reasons for the difference are the following:—

Firstly.—No English Barrister who is able to make a living or has any prospect of making a living by legal practice accepts service. Mr. MacEwen, for instance, accepted office as an Officiating Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court when he had little or no practice, but when offered a Judgeship in that Court a second time, refused it, having secured a tolerable practice by that time.

Secondly.—Barrister Judges of the Calcutta Small Cause Court are seldom elderly men with an experience of the world.

Thirdly.—They are ignorant of native ways and habits. One instance of this will suffice. A short time ago a native cook sued his master in the Calcutta Small Cause Court for arrears of pay. The cook could not establish his claim, and his master produced many indirect proofs of his having received the pay he claimed. In spite of all this, however, Mr. Handley granted the cook a decree against his master on the sole ground that the latter had not taken a receipt from his servant.

Fourthly.—English Judges do not fear social or public opinion like Native Judges.

The first two reasons apply equally against Native Barristers. But then natives are content with smaller incomes than Englishmen, and a Judge enjoys higher consideration in Native society than in English society. Many able Native Barristers therefore may agree to serve as Judges. But Government seldom selects really able men from among Native Barristers for Judgeships. It is seldom that a man like Babu Kishorimohan Chatterjee attracts their notice. For all these reasons we recommend that Government should appoint Subordinate Judges as Judges of the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

With reference to the appointment of Mr. Abdur Rahman as an Additional Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, we should like to ask where was the necessity of having an Additional Judge in that Court. The work of that Court has decreased. Formerly the High Court in its Original Side could not take cognisance of suits whose value was less than Rs. 2,000. But now parties have the option of instituting suits of a value above Rs. 1,000 in the High Court—an option which is availed of in nearly all cases. The number of suits of a value of Rs. 1,000 or thereabout instituted in the Calcutta Small Cause Court has also decreased, for the public have now little faith in that Court. Of the suits of high value that are now instituted in that Court, the majority are compromised. The Chief Judge therefore has very little work to do, and finishes his day's work by 1 or 2 P.M. The case is much the same with the Second Judge. Both these Judges also do not come to Court on Saturdays, for which new trials are now held on Fridays instead of Saturdays. Have these Judges the Lieutenant-Governor's permission to absent themselves on Saturdays? Since the first two Judges have so little work to do, cannot the post of one of

them be abolished? Government cannot appoint an Additional Munsif, but it has appointed an Additional Small Cause Court Judge without the least necessity. There is no custodian of the Indian tax-payers' money, and it is therefore thrown away right and left.

HITAVADI, Sept. 27th, 1895.

Extension to old Subordinate Judges.

10. The same paper fears that the Lieutenant-Governor will grant extension to many old Subordinate Judges. But that would be unjust to the lower grade and Officiating Munsifs.

(c)—Jails.

SAHACHAR, Sept. 25th, 1895.

Jail reform.

11. The *Sahachar* of the 25th September has the following:—

The public will no doubt be gratified to learn that the Bengal Government has given effect to some of the recommendations made by the Indian Relief Society in connection with the reform of the jail administration in this country. The condition of the Indian jails is still far from what it should be. But it must be said to the credit of Sir Charles Elliott that he has done a good deal to improve their water-supply, and also to secure better house accommodation for the prisoners. There is, however, still left a good deal to be done by way of reforming the Indian jail administration. The defective privy arrangements are to a great extent responsible for the bad health of the prisoners. The bad house accommodation for juvenile criminals is also a crying defect. But the greatest defect is the insufficiency and the inferior quality of the food supplied to the inmates of our prisons. They are virtually half-starved. Insufficient as is the quantity of food sanctioned for each prisoner by the Jail Code, a portion of it is stolen by the jail officers in charge of the food-supply, who do not even hesitate to adulterate the food supplied to the inmates of the jail. All these circumstances make the food-supply in the jails the principal source of unhealthiness. It breeds cholera and dysentery and bowel-complaint. It is a matter of regret, however, that Government does not pay any attention to such matters, and labours under the wrong impression that the bad health of the prisoners is in no way due to their insufficient clothing, coarse and insufficient food, and impure water-supply. Government appoints Medical Commissions to scientifically investigate the causes of unhealthiness in the Indian jails, but it fails to find out the causes which are patent to common sense. In the opinion of experienced medical men, the prisoners should be supplied with meat four times a week, and they should also be supplied with mustard oil to besmear their bodies with. Work at the oil machine is a labour too hard for an Indian prisoner to bear. All these facts should be taken into consideration by the Government in reforming the jail administration.

(d)—Education.

HITAVADI, Sept. 27th, 1895.

The last Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination.

12. The *Hitavadi* of the 27th September says that the last Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination was marked by many irregularities: the examination, which lasts for four days, was concluded this year in three; the full marks in geometry, &c., it was announced beforehand, would be 100, but they were subsequently fixed at 50, and the questions in algebra were too easy, while those in arithmetic were too difficult. The way in which of the vernacular examinations are conducted is also becoming unsatisfactory from the bad example of the Calcutta University. The examiners as well as the authorities will do well not to show their prowess in the massacre of innocents.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

HITAVADI, Sept. 27th, 1895.

The Calcutta Municipality.

13. Referring to the retention of Mr. Silk in his officiating appointment for a further period of three months, the *Hitavadi* of the 27th September observes that there is no knowing how many strange proceedings of this sort on the part of the Calcutta Municipality the public will have to witness. A new Vice-Chairman will be elected in January next. Babu Nilambar Mukharji is certainly the fittest man for that office. He who so ably administered a large State like Cashmere will surely be able to administer the affairs of the Calcutta Municipality in an efficient and

satisfactory manner. But there is interest and influence, and there are '*apkewaste*' Commissioners. It is not therefore easy to say whether merit will have its proper recognition.

The writer observes in this connection that an official Chairman in the Calcutta Municipality is an interference with local self-government, inasmuch, as Government nominees and such of the elected Commissioners as depend upon the favour of Government cannot oppose such a Chairman in any matter. If the Calcutta Municipality had a non-official Chairman, scandalous things would not be so common in it. If the municipal affairs of a large town like Bombay can be satisfactorily administered by a non-official Chairman, it is not easy to see why the municipal administration of Calcutta, too, cannot safely be entrusted to a non-official.

Mr. De, Chairman of the Santipur Municipality.

14. A correspondent of the same paper, a rate-payer of the Santipur Municipality, thus contradicts the allegations which appeared in the letter of another correspondent in a previous issue of this paper (see Report on Native Papers for 21st September, paragraph 33) against Mr. De, Chairman of the Santipur Municipality :— HITAVADI, Sept. 27th, 1895.

The practice of the green grocers putting up stalls on the sides of roads really blocks the way, and greatly inconveniences foot-passengers as well as those who drive in carriages. Mr. De did nothing wrong to prosecute the offenders with the permission of the District Magistrate and on finding their guilt established, to punish them with fine. It is true that in the time of the ease-loving Subdivisional Officer, Nabin Babu, all such cases and cases of even greater importance were put on the files of ignorant Honorary Magistrates, who failed to do justice in them. But is Mr. De to be blamed because he does not imitate his predecessor in this respect ?

It is not true that hackney coach-drivers are fined if the least sore is found on the bodies of their horses. They are fined only if the sore is found on a part of the body where it is likely to be aggravated by friction. The truth at the bottom of the allegations made against Mr. De is that he does not, in imitation of Nabin Babu's practice, let off offenders.

The Editor remarks that most rate-payers of the Santipur Municipality do not give the version of the matter which has been given by this correspondent. The present correspondent's arguments, too, are weak.

(*g*)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

Grievances of passengers on the East Indian Railway.

15. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 27th September draws attention to the following grievances under which third-class passengers labour on the East Indian Railway:— HITAVADI, Sept. 27th, 1895.

(1) The opening of the ticket stall at Howrah shortly before train time. This causes great crush, which makes the police in attendance and the ticket Babu lose their temper and shower abuses on the passengers and ill-treat them.

(2) The gate-keeper seldom allows any third-class passenger to cross the gate without using bodily violence towards him.

(3) The ticket-collectors do not speak to the third-class passengers without abusing them.

(4) Third-class passengers can seldom induce the *pánipándés* to supply them with drinking-water.

(5) The privies at the stations are a horror to the passengers. One also fails to understand why the railway authorities should unnecessarily wound the feelings of third-class passengers by putting over their privies a sign-board containing the contemptuous terms "for *admis*" or "for *kala admis*." Can the black Gomez and DeCruz be styled gentlemen, and cannot the natives be styled by the same epithet ?

(6) The correspondent was also pained to see pilgrims carried to the Baidyanath *mela* in open trucks under a midday sun.

HITAVADI, Sept. 27th, 1895.

The steamer service between Faridpur and Goalundo.

16. Another correspondent of the same paper complains of the bad arrangements on Kimberg and Company's steamer, which has been plying between Faridpur and Goalundo since the 1st July last in the place of the Government steamer service. There is no room set apart on the steamer for *pardanishin* women, and the times for issuing tickets and for arrival and departure of the steamer are most irregular. The steamer being plied under the sole charge of menials, the passengers are often ill-treated by them. The Agent himself does not treat the passengers well.

SANJIVANI, Sept. 28th, 1895.

A railway grievance.

17. The *Sanjivani* of the 28th September complains that railway passengers were very roughly handled by the station staff at the Sealdah Station during the Durga Puja. None—not even those who went to see their female friends and relatives off—were allowed to enter the platform, and no passenger was allowed to carry his own luggage, however small.

(h)—General.

CHARU MIHIR, Sept. 24th, 1895.

Mr. Westmacott on the administration of criminal justice.

18. It is the object of the authorities, says the *Charu Mihir* of the 24th September, to administer the criminal law in this country in the most rigorous manner possible. Mr. Westmacott has expressed regret at the leniency shown by the criminal judiciary. Evidence which the judiciary have considered insufficient for a conviction has been held sufficiently incriminating by the Presidency Commissioner in his Administration Report. Reflections like Mr. Westmacott's on the work of the judiciary are calculated to do serious mischief to the administration of criminal justice.

CHARU MIHIR.

Wanted a post-office in the Mymensingh district.

19. A correspondent of the same paper prays for a branch post-office at Bhar-Sarai, in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district. The place is the residence of certain well-to-do merchants, who have large business in Calcutta, Dinajpur, Sirajganj, &c. These merchants are greatly inconvenienced by the delivery of their letters, &c., only once a week, and that not regularly. The new post-office is sure to be a self-supporting one.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI, Sept. 24th, 1895.

Mr Westmacott on the police and judicial services in the Presidency Division.

20. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 24th September has the following:—

It is a pity that officials, upon the single word of whose mouth depends the weal or woe of millions of men, should not take all facts into their consideration before they pass their opinion upon any particular subject. Of all officials, Mr. Westmacott seems to be the most self opinionated, as is evident from the reflections he has indulged in in his report on the administration of police and criminal justice in the Presidency Division. It seems to be his opinion that the police is not sufficiently encouraged and helped by the Magistrates in detecting crime and making a searching investigation into the criminal cases brought to its notice. And this is the reason why such a large number of cases fall through for want of proper evidence. Mr. Westmacott seems to have greater confidence in the efficiency of the police than in the ability of the Deputy Magistrates, who, in spite of their notoriously convicting propensities, have not been able to satisfy the Commissioner of the Presidency Division. In his opinion the Deputy Magistrates have no independence, and are in mortal dread of the Sessions Courts, where a large *percentage* of the convictions brought about by them are almost sure to be set aside on appeal. The Sessions Courts and ultimately the High Court also are thus held responsible for the growth of crime in the country. And such is Mr. Westmacott's conceit that he even goes the length of reading them a lecture on their duties as judicial officers. It is a wrong procedure, says he, always to insist on truth, and nothing but truth in the evidence available in this country. There is generally no more than a grain of truth concealed in a bushel of falsehood in the words of native witnesses, and it should be the duty of a Judge in this country to get the grain of truth out of the bushel of falsehood, and form his judgment accordingly. If he always insists on unadulterated truth, and rejects all evidence which is apparently contradictory and inconsistent, he will be able to convict very few prisoners. The consequence is that even murderers are acquitted by the Sessions Courts, and hardened criminals, even if convicted by them, are almost sure to be released by the High Court on appeal.

It is not too much to say that the above opinions of Mr. Westmacott are thoroughly out of place. It is quite clear that he wants the Judges and Magistrates to convict in a large number of cases, but that is not possible so long as the existing law remains in force. Mr. Westmacott may be a legal genius, and it may be possible for him to sift a grain of truth from a bushel of falsehood; but the majority of Indian Magistrates have not that admirable faculty, and it will be making a dangerous experiment to allow them to administer justice on the lines recommended by Mr. Westmacott. The truth is, Mr. Westmacott is an executive officer, and it is downright impertinence on his part to criticise the conduct of judicial officers. As the executive head of a division, he is to look after the efficient working of the police service, he is to see that crime diminishes in the country, and peace and order are properly maintained. The police is the instrument through which he has to work, and hence his anxiety to uphold the conduct of the police and condemn that of the judicial officers whenever he has to give an explanation for the increase of crime in the land. That the increase of crime is, as a matter of course, due to the inefficiency of the police is a fact which he is not prepared to admit. And he thinks it a satisfactory explanation to hold the judicial officers responsible for what is evidently due to the inefficiency of the police. This sort of irresponsible criticism is doing mischief to the people in two ways. It emboldens the police and increases its enefficiency. It induces the native Deputy Magistrates to go against their conscience and convict prisoners even when there is no evidence warranting conviction.

The Administration Report of the Presidency Division for 1894-95.

21. Referring to Mr. Westmacott's Administration Report for 1894-95, the *Sahachar* of the 25th September observes that the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, upon whom depends the weal or woe of millions, has not a kind word for the people, while his heart actually overflows with sympathy for his pet, the Bengal police. There are Magistrates who are in the habit of demanding an explanation from the Government Pleader whenever in a case sent up for trial to the Sessions Court the prisoners are acquitted. Mr. Westmacott beats even these Magistrates all hollow. Speaking of the increase of crime in the country, he says that this is entirely due to the leniency of Judges and Magistrates, who insist upon getting evidence of which the truth cannot be impeached in convicting the prisoners. Such evidence, says Mr. Westmacott, it is not possible to get in this country. The Indian witnesses are not known for their veracity and in their evidence there is always a grain of truth lying concealed in a bushel of falsehood, which, it should be the best care of the Judges and Magistrates in this country to sift out. It may be said in answer to Mr. Westmacott that the Judges and Magistrates in this country do sift the truth from the untruth, but sometimes the truth obtained is so small that it is not just or proper to convict a prisoner on its strength. It is the principle of the English law to let a hundred guilty persons escape rather than punish a single innocent person. And it is going against this golden principle to condemn Judges and Magistrates, who are true to the noble traditions of the English law. Mr. Westmacott cannot certainly say that every one accused of offence is guilty. If he thinks so, he shows a lamentable defect of understanding, as surely as his captious and wayward criticism of the conduct of the judicial officers prejudicially affects the cause of justice.

SAHACHAR, Sept. 25th, 1895.

The proposed establishment of a veterinary department.

22. Referring to the proposed establishment of a veterinary department by the Government, the *Sanjivani* of the 28th September observes that by giving effect to this proposal the Government will not only confer a lasting boon on the Indian peasantry, but will also open a new field for employment to the educated Indians. The Indian cattle will now be looked after, and its physique improved. It is expected that native students will flock to the institutions opened in connection with this department.

SANJIVANI, Sept. 28th, 1895.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

The post of Law Member and too much legislation.

23. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 24th September observes that since the post of Law Member was created, the country is every year almost overflooded with legal enactments and their amendments. The Law Member

BURDWAN SANJIVANI, Sept. 24th, 1895.

draws a handsome pay, and he is eager to justify his existence by passing a host of legislative measures. But what is scrupulous performance of duty to the Law Member is death to the Indian people. They have got a surfeit of law, and the Government can easily cause a great saving of money to itself and of trouble to the people by dispensing with the services of the Law Member for some time to come.

VI.—Miscellaneous.

Charu Mihir, Sept 24th, 1895.

24. The *Charu Mihir* of the 24th September has the following:—

The political outlook.

The coming of the Conservative party into office has been from the very beginning productive of evil to this country. The cloud in the frontier is thickening, and Chitral feels the grasp of the English tighter. Indeed, the frontier wars are consuming the country like a slow fire, and no one knows where the forward policy of the Government of India will end. The occupation of Chitral will not only rouse the enmity of the frontier tribes, but will displease Russia, and will thus be a fresh weak point in the already weak administration. It is the greed of the English which will one day bring the country into serious trouble.

Neither does the internal administration fare better. In an evil moment Sir Charles Elliott proposed an interference with the jury system. Though at the time His Honour's object could not be achieved, the proposal vitiated the political atmosphere of India. Seeing his opportunity, Sir Alexander Miller has now introduced a Bill to mutilate the jury system. If the Bill is passed there will remain nothing of the system but its skeleton. Jury trial is essential to a proper administration of justice, and absolutely necessary in a dependent country, where miscarriage of justice is likely to take place more frequently than in an independent country. Another measure has been proposed by which Government intends to nip in the bud the political life of the people. It is the independence of the legal profession which has inaugurated and kept alive the National Congress, and which constitutes the hope of the political regeneration of the people. Government has been for some time watching the movements of the profession, and has now introduced a Bill to curtail the independence of pleaders and mukhtars, and by bringing them under its control deal a blow at the very root of the Congress movement. Even Lord Elgin, who is a follower of Mr. Gladstone's, seems to have forgotten himself under the influence of the Conservative Government. If the people, therefore, want to avert the evils that are threatening them, they should raise a loud protest which can be heard even in England.

Charu Mihir,

25. Referring to the rumour that Sir Alexander Miller will succeed

The next Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.

Sir Comer Petheram as Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, the same paper says that Sir Charles Elliott will be very glad if this appointment is actually made. For many reasons the High Court has become a thorn in the side of the Government. The High Court puts a curb on the arbitrary and despotic conduct of mufassal officials. And it is owing to the High Court that Government cannot give a free scope to its policy of high handedness. All this led Sir Charles Elliott to wage a war against the extensive powers of the High Court. But fortunately the Liberal party was in office, and his efforts came to nothing. But Government will to a certain extent gain its object if Sir Alexander Miller can be made the Chief Justice. Sir Alexander is at present the right hand of Government, and has already gained a notoriety by his proposals against the jury law and the independence of the legal profession. If such a man is appointed Chief Justice, Government will, in many difficulties, be able to count upon his help. Indeed, one cannot contemplate the future of the High Court without anxiety. The retirement of both Mr. Justice Norris and Sir Comer Petheram at the same time, and the appointment of Sir Alexander Miller to succeed the latter, will be a great misfortune to the country.

Hitavadi, Sept. 27th, 1895.

26. The *Hitavadi* of the 27th September has learnt that certain persons

Lady visitors insulted in the Calcutta Museum.

are in the habit of insulting the native ladies who visit the Calcutta Museum by lewd oglings and obscene gestures, and that one of these is a man

who has some sort of connection with the institution. The Superintendent is requested to enquire into the matter.

The Indian Colonists in Natal.

27. The same paper says that Englishmen who are condemning so loudly Turkish oppression in Armenia, and who have ruined many a petty ruler by forcing upon him the free trade principle, are behaving towards the Indian Colonists in Natal in a way which cannot fail to excite grief and surprise. These Colonists live by trade and agriculture, and some of them are time-expired coolies, who, instead of returning to their thickly populated native country where starvation awaits them, have preferred to live in that Colony. They are of peaceful and law-abiding habits, and have, as is admitted by many English officials, contributed much to the progress of the Colony. But these Indian Colonists are an eyesore to the English residents, who apprehend loss from their competition. It has been therefore proposed that no time-expired cooly will be allowed to live in Natal, except as a cooly under a fresh agreement, unless he pays an annual tax of £3 or Rs. 60 according to the present rate of exchange. It is a noteworthy fact that this tax is to apply only to the weak and helpless Indian Colonists, and not to the Colonists belonging to powerful nations, such as the Chinese. So much for English impartiality!

HITAVADI, Sept. 27th, 1895.

The Indian Colonists have appealed to the Home Government. The writer has little hope that their prayer will be heard, for Englishmen are capable of sacrificing justice to their own interests. But remembering the former noble deeds of Englishmen, he does not altogether despair of success.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 5th October 1895.

W. S.—Reg. No. 42220—74—9.10.95.